

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete submission to accompany an RCE and in response to the Final Office Action dated November 19, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 19, 2008. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, 28, 30, and 31 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, 28, 30, and 31 are rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented herein.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, 28, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to obviate the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, 28, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 as anticipated by and/or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bodnar* (U.S. Patent No. 5,143,945). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have employed catalysts within the teachings of *Bodnar*; that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have employed water as the blowing agent of *Bodnar*; and that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have prepared foams in the absence of halocarbon as taught by *Bodnar*.

Bodnar discloses a blowing agent mixture of a halocarbon blowing agent and an organic carboxylic acid for use in a foam mixture of an organic polyisocyanate, a polyol, and a trimerization catalyst. All of *Bodnar's* blow agent mixtures require some amount of halocarbon. *Bodnar* also discloses that water may be added to the blowing agent mixture. However, the addition of water only reduces the amount of halocarbon in the blowing agent mixture. *Bodnar* further describes the retention (requirement) of halocarbons in rigid polyisocyanate based closed cell foams albeit at environmentally helpful levels as necessary to form superior rigid polyurethane foams over foams blown with carboxylic acids or combinations of carboxylic acids and water. As such, *Bodnar* does not provide any suggestion or motivation as to the specific amounts and selection of catalysts for use with a blowing agent selected from the group consisting essentially of water, a hydrocarbon, or a mixture of water and hydrocarbon.

The Examiner also argues that *Bodnar* "does teach exclusion of halocarbon blowing agents if one were interested in providing environmentally friendly products over products having similar insulation." However, *Bodnar* merely states that total replacement of halocarbon is the ultimate "goal." A goal that *Bodnar* himself did not achieve. Moreover, that statement alone could not serve as a

teaching or suggestion from *Bodnar* that halocarbon can be removed from his foam forming mixtures. To the contrary, all of *Bodnar's* mixtures include a halocarbon. *Bodnar* does not teach or suggest the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of water, a hydrocarbon, or a mixture of water and hydrocarbon, as recited in claims 1 and 28. Also, *Bodnar* does not teach or suggest the blowing agent consists of water, as recited in claim 30.

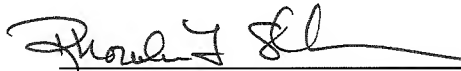
Conclusion

In conclusion, the reference cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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